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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PADIHAM.

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ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st., 1954.

J. W. J. FORSYTHE, MB., CHB., BAO.  
Medical Officer of Health.



PADIHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Town Hall,  
PADIHAM.

4th. July, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Padiham.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my twenty ninth Annual Report dealing with the health of the inhabitants of Padiham during 1954.

Acting on the instructions of the Ministry of Health this will be an interim report, confined to essential or urgent matters which have affected the Public Health during the year, such as, overcrowding, sanitation, distribution of clean food, and outbreaks of infectious diseases etc.

Reference will also be made as to the methods adopted for following up cases of Tuberculosis.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population:- Estimated population in 1954 - 10,040.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
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Number of live burths registered:-

Legitimate	145	81	64
Illegitimate	5	3	2
	<u>150</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>66</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population:-

Crude	14.9
Adjusted	15.5

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
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Number of stillbirths:-

Legitimate	2	2	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births. - 13.0.

Number of deaths registered:- Males 64. Females 72. Total 136.

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population:- Crude. 13.5.  
Adjusted. 12.1.

Respiratory T.B. death rate.....	Nil.
Death rate from Malignant neoplasms.....	2.19.
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births.....	Nil.
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births.....	20.
Pro-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births.....	13.

Infant Deaths:-

Deaths under 1 year of age:- Males 1. Females 2. Total 3.  
Deaths under 4 weeks of age:- Males Nil. Females 2. Total 2.



Causes of death:-

Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	2
Syphilitic disease .....	2
Malignant neoplasm - Stomach .....	2
" " - Lungs .....	2
" " - Breast .....	5
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .....	13
Diabetes .....	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	23
Coronary disease, Angina .....	14
Hypertension with heart disease .....	2
Other heart diseases .....	18
Other circulatory diseases .....	9
Influenza .....	1
Pneumonia .....	4
Bronchitis .....	10
Other diseases of respiratory system .....	1
Ulcers of stomach and Duodenum .....	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhea .....	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	20
All other accidents .....	3
Suicide .....	2

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The unemployment which occurred during 1952 and which was more or less confined to Cotton Operatives eased off a lot during 1954.

Most of the mills in Padiham are running their own canteens, and these should be encouraged and used more than they are, by the workers.

A lot of absenteeism could be wiped out if special catering could be adopted for people suffering from Diabetes, Duodenal ulcers and nephritis.

The County Council has control of three nurseries in the area where children under school age of women engaged in industry are looked after.

In times of epidemics, stricter supervision of the children attending these nurseries is essential, and the provision of an observation room in each nursery would help to reduce the risk of spreading infection.

All the schools in the district provide dinners for the scholars and this is also to be highly commended.

In connection with the welfare of the old people, a voluntary association has been set up and is doing valuable work, such as, letter writing, doing shopping when necessary, giving advice, and arranging for domestic helps in cases of sickness.

On the whole the health of the inhabitants has been good during the year, and so far as recreations are concerned, full advantage was taken of all the facilities controlled by the Local Authority and the various Sunday Schools.

So far as the health of the aged is concerned there is no doubt that the sons and daughters will have to bear their fair share of looking after them and not leave it to others.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.WATER SUPPLY:-

The water supply has been good both in quantity and quality. Chemically and bacteriologically the water has been excellent.

The following are the results of bacteriological and Chemical examinations carried out in 1954.

Bacteriological examinations - No. 9.

Results - B.coli per 100 c.c.

0 in 8 samples.

1 in 1 sample.

Chemical Examination:-

Colour	None.	Hardness: Temporary	8
Appearance	Clear & Bright.	Permanent.	27
Taste	None.	Oxygen absorbed	
Odour	None.	in 4 hours.	0.5
Free Carbon Dioxide.	2.5.	Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	8
Nitrogen: Free & Saline.	0.04.	Total Solids.	85
	Albuminoid.		
	0.026.		
	Nitrous.		
	0.001.		
	Nitric.		
	0.50.		

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR.

Houses - Public Health Act .....	183
Houses - Housing Act. ....	20
Fireguard Act .....	5
Common Lodging Houses .....	14
Infectious Disease Cases .....	34
Rodent Control .....	68
Revisits .....	169
Factories .....	23
Workshops .....	23
Shops Act .....	605
Smoke observations .....	60
Bakehouses .....	26
Fish & Chip Shops .....	21
Food premises .....	37
Butchers Shops .....	46
Ice Cream Premises .....	18
Markets .....	54
Slaughterhouses .....	212
Milk Sampling .....	9
Ice cream sampling .....	5
Tinned and other foods .....	32
Houses disinfected .....	21
Houses disinfested .....	3
Domestic Refuse Collection .....	37
Trade Refuse Collection .....	29
Refuse Disposal (Tips) .....	201
Salvage .....	168
Miscellaneous .....	252

Total 2,375



DERATISATION AND DISINFESTATION.(a) RODENT CONTROL:-

458 properties were inspected for alleged rodent infestation and 43 were treated by the Rodent Operator. Sausage rusk bait and Zinc Phosphide poison, also damp bread mash and arsenic oxide poison were used.

(b) DISINFESTATION:-

3 premises were dealt with for vermin; 2 for cockroaches, and 1 for fleas.

The Refuse Tip at Jumb Wood was periodically dusted with D.D.T. powder to ensure Cockroach and Cricket control.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

All the activities associated with this all important matter have been closely watched by the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

BAKEHOUSES.

The number of bakehouses on the register is 14 and these have been regularly inspected. No contraventions were noted.

MEAT REGULATIONS.

These have been closely watched by the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

All the dairies and cowsheds were periodically inspected.

Number of Dairy farms in the district.	6
Number of premises registered as dairies.	1
Number of farms registered as distributors of milk.	42
Number of dealers licensed to use Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested".	5
Number of dealers licensed to use Special Designation "Pasteurised".	16
Number of persons licensed to use Special Designation "Sterilised".	8
Total number of approvals.	<u>71</u>

FOOD PREPARATION.

Regular visits were paid to food preparing premises and it is a pleasure to report that no contraventions were noted.

Number of premises registered for sale or manufacture of Ice Cream.	42
Number of premises registered for preparation or manufacture of sausage or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food.	43
Number of registrations during the year.	1

5.

Bye-laws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 now apply in the area and thus the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food sold or intended for sale for human consumption, and also in connection with the sale or exposure for sale in the open air of food intended for human consumption are closely watched,

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The following offensive trades are now in existence in the area:-

Tripe Boiler.	1
Size Maker.	1
Fish Fryers.	13

All these premises have been regularly inspected.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is one registered common lodging house in the district. This was inspected on 14 occasions during the year and was found to be as satisfactory as one can expect of such a building.

SMOKE OBSERVATION.

No serious smoke nuisances were observed during the year.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1954.

This came into operation on the 1st. October 1954 and the main provisions are the licensing of premises for slaughter of animals; regulations for securing humane conditions; licensing of slaughter men; etc.

Three persons applied for and were granted licences to slaughter animals.

HOUSING.

(a)	Number of new houses erected during the year	28
(b)	Number of houses erected under the various acts:-	
	1. Housing Act. 1919. ....	31
	2. Housing Act 1923-24. ....	170
	3. Housing Act 1930-36.	228
	4. Housing Act 1936-46.	21
	5. Housing Act 1946-51.	194
	T otal	<u>644</u>

OVERCROWDING.

No overcrowding, as set down in the Housing Act, was observed during the year although 8 cases of complaint by Tenants were submitted to the Committee.



HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Preliminary surveys show that 63 houses have been considered as unfit houses at the present time, and that 246 will fall into the same category in 10 years time.

To give some indication of the extent of the shortage of houses it is only necessary to state that there are over 130 families in lodgings, 59 without children and the rest with 1, 2, 3, or 4 children.

There are over 100 aged persons seeking one bedroom bungalows.

Housing Schemes are in progress to try and alleviate these conditions.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

1954 was more or less a normal year apart from an outbreak of Whooping Cough, but this was generally mild in character and no deaths were recorded.

Diphtheria was once again conspicuous by its absence.

The following cases of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) were reported during the year.

Scarlet Fever	6
Measles	4
Whooping Cough	94
Chicken Pox	52
Gastro Enteritis	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following cases were notified during the year:-

Respiratory.	13.
Non-respiratory.	4.

All new cases are thoroughly investigated and followed up.

Immediate contacts are X-rayed and given the Montouse Test and examined by the Chest Physicians.

The Mass Radiographic Unit visited Padiham in 1954, and was much appreciated by the inhabitants.

A good response was obtained and it is to be hoped that another visit will be made in a year or two.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Clerk of the Council, and the Sanitary Inspector for their loyal co-operation during the year.

I am,  
Lady and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,

J. W. J. FORSYTHE,

Medical Officer of Health.





